

The Outsiders

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Study Guide

Chapter 1

Vocabulary:

Greasers

Socs

Madras

Unfathomable

Sarcasm

Rumble

Clammy

Sympathetic

Complicated

Specialty

Irresistibly

Reputation

Discussion questions:

1. Why does Ponyboy like to go to the movies alone?
2. Which brother is Ponyboy fonder of and why?
3. Why was it unwise for Greasers to walk alone?
4. Describe the Greasers:
5. Describe the Socs:
6. Why is Johnny so quiet and withdrawn?
7. Explain the difference between “tough” and “tuff.”
8. What happened to Ponyboy on the way home from the movies?
9. What do you learn about the Greasers that is “uncharacteristic” of them?
10. Why do you think Ponyboy talks about his unfortunate experience in biology class?

Chapter 2

Vocabulary:

Roguishly

Nonchalantly

Vaguely

Slouched

Gallantly

Aloofness

Conformity

Fuzz

Half-crooked

Discussion questions:

1. Where were Dally, Ponyboy, and Johnny on their way to in the beginning of Chapter 2?
2. Where did Dally choose to sit and why?
3. Why was Ponyboy embarrassed?
4. What events took place next?
5. What did Johnny do that surprised Ponyboy?
6. When Ponyboy and Cherry went to get popcorn, what was the topic of conversation?
7. What does Cherry reveal to Ponyboy about the Socs?
8. How does Ponyboy feel about what Cherry had to say?

Chapter 3

Vocabulary:

Sophisticated

Elite

Winced

Passionately

Frustration

Cunning

Discussion questions:

1. What did Ponyboy feel separated the Greasers from the Socs?
2. What were Cherry's ideas on this same topic?

3. How did Ponyboy feel about Cherry? How do you know he is comfortable around her?
4. Cherry says to Ponyboy, "I'll bet you watch sunsets, too."
 - a. What has Cherry discovered about Ponyboy?
 - b. What does Ponyboy discover about their two worlds?
5. Why did Cherry and Marcia agree to ride home with Randy and Bob?
6. Why didn't Ponyboy go home after Cherry and Marcia left?
7. Where did he go and what happened?
8. What did Ponyboy want to do in order to cool down?
9. What is one flashback from Chapter 3?
10. "Things gotta get better, I figured. They couldn't get worse. I was wrong." This is an example of?

Chapter 4

Vocabulary:

Desperately

Contemptuously

Gingerly

Premonition

Unceasingly

Discussion questions:

1. At the beginning of this chapter, where are Johnny and Ponyboy?
2. Who did Johnny & Ponyboy encounter at the park?
3. What had the Socs been doing earlier?
4. What happened at the park?
5. What would you have done in Johnny's situation?
6. What did they decide to do next?
7. Whose idea was it?
8. What was Dally's advice?
9. Find an example of a flashback in chapter 4.
10. How does this chapter end?

Chapter 5

Vocabulary:

Reluctantly

Imploringly

Gallant

Corn-poney

A heater

Discussion:

Write seven main points for this chapter.

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Chapter 6

Vocabulary:

Doggedly

Bewilderment

Conviction

Hysterics

Plasma

Discussion questions:

1. "Johnny was a good fighter and could play it cool, but he was sensitive and that isn't a good way to be when you're a greaser." What does Ponyboy recognize about Johnny?
2. At the beginning of the story, how does Ponyboy feel about Dally? Does his attitude change? In what way?
3. How do Ponyboy and Johnny become heroes?
4. Ponyboy saw a different side of Johnny during the rescue. Explain.
5. What was ironic about the statement Jerry made about them being sent from heaven and being professional heroes?

6. What did Ponyboy realize about Dally this chapter?
7. What is an example of symbolism from *The Outsiders*?

Chapter 7

Vocabulary:

Mimic

Palomino

Manslaughter

Absent-minded

Radiates

Juvenile

Genuine

Exploits

Discussion questions:

1. What do we find out about Jonny's condition?
2. Why do the Curtis boys always leave their door unlocked? What does that tell you about them?
3. From the article that the newspaper writes about Ponyboy and the others, what concerns Ponyboy the most?
4. What do we find out about Soda's girlfriend, Sandy?
5. Why does Randy have a hard time believing that Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally helped rescue the children?
6. What does Randy reveal to Ponyboy about Bob?
7. What explanation does Randy give for not going to the fight between the Socs and the Greasers?
8. From the conversation between Randy and Ponyboy, what does Ponyboy realize about Randy?

Chapter 8 & 9

Vocabulary:

Faltered

Divert

Debate

Panicky

Desperate

Detached

Bopper

Discussion questions:

1. "You get tough like me and you don't get hurt. You look out for yourself and nothin' can touch you." Do you agree with Dally's philosophy? Why or why not?
2. What differences does Ponyboy see between Tim Shephard's gang and his?
3. Why do Steve, Soda, Dally, and Two Bit fight?
4. What does Ponyboy think of fighting?
5. Do you think fighting solves anything? Why or why not?
6. What are the Greasers proud of (2 things)?
7. Are they justified in their pride? Give reasons for your opinion.
8. What was Johnny's last message to Ponyboy? What do you think he meant?

Chapter 10

Discussion questions:

1. How did Ponyboy react to Johnny's death?
2. Why did Ponyboy figure Dally could not take Johnny's death?
3. Why did Dally phone the Curtis' house?
4. What happened next?
5. What was the difference between Johnny's death and Dally's death?
6. How did Ponyboy figure Dally died a gallant death?
7. Ponyboy had a feeling of hopelessness – why?
8. Ponyboy passed out from a concussion. When he awoke, he was in a state of denial concerning Johnny's death. What was he concerned about when he awoke?
9. What had Johnny left for Ponyboy?
10. How did Ponyboy feel about that?

Chapter 11

Discussion questions:

1. Ponyboy had to stay in bed for a week. As he was looking through an old yearbook, what did he come across?

2. How did Ponyboy view Bob?
3. What does Ponyboy mean when he says, "I'd rather have anybody's hate than self-pity."?
4. Who comes to visit Ponyboy? Why do they visit?
5. What is Randy most sorry for?
6. What is Ponyboy worried about?
7. What surprises Ponyboy?
8. What is Ponyboy's mental state?
9. What did Darry do that made Ponyboy feel good?

Chapter 12

Discussion questions:

1. What happened at the trial?
2. What does Ponyboy have problems with after the trial?
3. What sort of attitude does Ponyboy take in the immediate weeks after the trial?
4. What does the fact that Ponyboy picks up the broken glass say about him?
5. What do we find out about Sandy?
6. How does Soda react to Darry and Ponyboy's bickering?

CONFLICT:

Man vs. society

Man vs. man

Man vs. himself

SYMBOLISM:

CHARACTERIZATION:

Dynamic

Static

Round

Flat

Protagonist

Antagonist